

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph starting at page 7, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Designated by 17d is an inside end surface of cylindrical base portion 17a, that is formed on a stepped portion defined between the cylindrical base portion 17a and the cylindrical cover portion 17b and contacts annular flat front end 10A of cylindrical wall 10 of boot 8.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 8, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As is seen from Fig. 7, like the above-mentioned first embodiment 100, cylindrical wall 10' of boot 8' is formed at its inner wall with two parallel grooves (or first passage) 15 that extend radially. However, annular flat front end (or axially leading end) 10A' of cylindrical wall 10' has no radially extending grooves.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Instead, as is seen from Figs. 8 and 9, inside end surface 17d' of boot cover 17' is formed with equally spaced four projections 20 whose top surfaces are in contact with annular flat front end 10A' of cylindrical wall 10'.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 9, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Accordingly, as is understood from Fig. 6, upon assembly of coupling 200, there are defined four clearances (or second passage) 21 between inside end surface 17d' and annular flat front end 10A', through which two parallel grooves 15 and the given annular space "S" are fluidly communicated. Thus, also in the second embodiment 200, the air bleeding passage "ABP" is established, that includes the axially extending parallel grooves (or first

passage) 15, the four clearances (or second passage) 21, the given annular space “S” and the grooves 18.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 9, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the second embodiment 200, the fluid communication means between two parallel grooves 15 and the given annular space “S” is provided substantially by boot cover 17' that is not affected by a clamping force produced by clamping ring 11. Thus, the open condition of air bleeding passage “ABP” is much assuredly achieved.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 9, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

If desired, in the second embodiment 200, in place of the projections 20, inside end surface 17d' of boot cover 17' may be formed with radially extending grooves through which two parallel grooves 15 and the given annular space “S” is established.